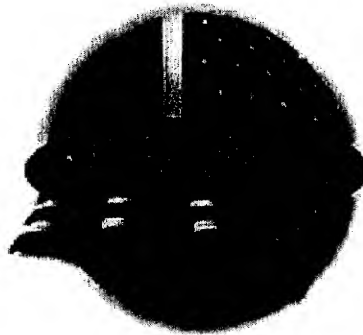




FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT Doretha Lange



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE MAR 30 1953	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/23; 2/11,13,16, 19,24-27; 3/2,4,10, 17,18/53	REPORT MADE BY [redacted] dl
TITLE [redacted]			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  <p style="text-align: center;"><del>SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL</del></p> <p>Acquaintance met the [redacted] in 1936 but did not know them as CP members. Another acquaintance knew the [redacted] as CP members in middle 1930's, due to association and activities, but did not know specific CP unit to which they belonged. Other acquaintances interviewed; not aware of CP sympathy on the part of the [redacted]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">b7C</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AGENCY 100-054 REQ. REC'D 6-18-58 REP'T FORM. 7-3-58 BY [redacted]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-P-</p> <p><u>DETAILS:</u></p> <p>Unless otherwise noted, all informants mentioned herein are of known reliability.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DECLASSIFIED BY 9803 RDD/KCA ON 10/8/93 # 343,317</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><del>SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL</del></p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [redacted] DRB	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
65-60018-4 1 - Bureau (65-60018) (Registered) 1 - INS, San Francisco (Registered) 2 - St. Louis (Registered) 3 - San Francisco (65-4387)		75-15018-57 6 APR 3 1953 RECORDED - 44 INDEXED - 44	

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[redacted] San Francisco, advised that she met [redacted] early in 1936 when they were residing [redacted]

[redacted] She stated that her line of interest in photography was in portraiture, while theirs was more in social or documentary photography.

[redacted] advised that she was not particularly interested in politics or social causes and could furnish little information as to the [redacted] attitude along these lines. [redacted] recalled the following persons as among those known by her to be acquaintances of the [redacted]

WILLIAM ABBENSETH, 73 Telegraph Place, photographer, employed on a WPA project at one time, photographed San Francisco houses and recently lived in New York for several years.

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b7D

[redacted] who lived near the [redacted] in the middle 1930's.

DOROTHEA LANGE-TAYLOR, Documentary Photographer.

[redacted] Photographer.

RE: WILLIAM H. ABBENSETH, JR. *cal Germany*

A report of the San Francisco Retailers' Credit Association dated December 11, 1939, concerning ABBENSETH, then age forty-fifty, reflects that he was then assistant supervisor, Art Project Department, WPA, 42nd and Judah, San Francisco, and had been employed there four years.

His wife's name was given as MARGARET and it was noted that a marriage license had been issued August 3, 1931 to WILLIAM HENRY ABBENSETH, JR. and MARGARET MOORE. *cal* Place and date of marriage not shown. He was divorced from his first wife, ELLEN ABBENSETH. *cal* Instant report reflected their current address as 1865 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, with previous addresses at 305A Filbert Street; 1218 Montgomery Street; and 1355 Taylor Street, all San Francisco, as well as 14 Penlo Park, Berkeley, California. It was stated that ABBENSETH and wife were living with his mother at the current address.

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[redacted] married [redacted] She was born [redacted] according to Immigration and Naturalization Service records. *SUITZ*

*CHIEF*  
San Francisco [redacted] advised in December, 1943, that [redacted] and his wife, known as [redacted] were members of the North Beach Club of the Communist Party in San Francisco.

The Communist Party has been cited by the Attorney General as a subversive organization which seeks to alter the form of Government of the United States by un-Constitutional means.

A report of the San Francisco Retailers' Credit Association dated July 13, 1949, reflects that [redacted]

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RE: MRS. DOROTHEA LANGE TAYLOR *"DOT"*

*CHIEF*  
Mrs. TAYLOR was born May 26, 1895 at Hoboken, New Jersey, and is presently the wife of Professor ~~PAUL SCHUSTER TAYLOR~~, Chairman of the Department of Economics, University of California (U.C.) at Berkeley.

The U.C. Index of Publications written by faculty members, reflects that Professor TAYLOR has published material dealing with seamen's labor matters on the Pacific Coast, the problems of farm laborers, and of Mexican migratory farm laborers.

[redacted] Berkeley, has advised that he believed that Mrs. TAYLOR illustrated some of the publications of Professor TAYLOR and expressed the personal opinion that these were "propaganda photographs in that by adroit use of lighting, composition, and subject matter, Mrs. TAYLOR had conveyed a very dismal and depressing view of exploitation of migratory laborers by large and wealthy agricultural interests."

The records of the Alameda County Retailers' Credit Association reflect that DOROTHEA LANGE was a Government photographer in 1939.

When interviewed by the FBI in February, 1942, [redacted] mentioned Professor and Mrs. TAYLOR as among their few acquaintances.

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this publication due to certain disagreements over its contents. SF [ ] stated that HARRY LUNDBERG of the Sailors Union of the Pacific (SUP), did not feel that the SUP was getting enough coverage.

[ ] advised that he had been acquainted with [ ] (mentioned above) and his wife and [ ] and believed them to be Party members in the same manner in which he believed the [ ] to be Party members. He stated that he did not know whether the [ ] were acquainted with [ ]. He pointed out that [ ] had been the [ ] so that it would appear logical that he would be acquainted with photographers interested in Communist activities.

[ ] remembered meeting [ ] who resided on [ ] San Francisco at one time, and [ ] a photographer, at a dance sponsored by the American Russian Institute and held in a hall located in the 1800 block of California Street between Polk and Van Ness, sometime in the middle 1930's. He stated that he did not know whether they were acquainted with the [ ].

[ ] recalled [ ] as a German who "ran with the intellectual crowd," but stated that he did not know [ ] employment at that time or whether [ ] was acquainted with the [ ].

[ ] described [ ] as one of the early artists in the Communist movement but again he stated he did not specifically know whether [ ] was acquainted with the [ ].

[ ] stated that he did not recall persons named [ ] or [ ] as acquaintances of the [ ] or as interested in Communist Party affairs. He stated that he knew DOROTHEA LANGE (TAYLOR), but did not know the extent of her acquaintance with the [ ] if any. The name of [ ] was not familiar to him.

[ ] advised that he had no knowledge of the [ ] employment in the middle 1930's or their places of residence.

[ ] has been reported as an acquaintance of the [ ] since the 1930's, according to [ ]

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Professor TAYLOR and wife (believed named DOT, formerly a photographer who was possibly once associated with "Life" Magazine, who had had an operation shortly before this affair.) (See DOROTHEA LANGE TAYLOR above):

The TAYLORS' teen-age son (name not recalled);

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[ ] advised that it was her belief that [ ] were interested in news photography as distinguished from documentary photography.

[ ] stated that their conversations with the [ ] had been primarily concerning photography and [ ] rather than on matters which would reveal the [ ] attitude toward Communism or the Soviet Union. [ ] stated that she had no reason to believe that the [ ] were sympathetic toward Communism or the U.S.S.R.

[ ] advised that when she first became acquainted with the [ ] they were living separately, with [ ] elsewhere in town, though she did not know where.

[ ] advised that she did not know how [ ] happened to become attached to "Life" Magazine, though possibly through [ ] (see above), one of the original "Life" photographers.

[ ] mentioned the following as to the known acquaintances of the [ ]

[ ] of the "Time-Life", San Francisco Office, [ ]

[ ] an acquaintance in the 1930's, a freelance photographer, later employed by "Life" Magazine.

DOROTHEA LANCE TAYLOR, mentioned above.

[ ], employed by "Life" in San Francisco.

RE: [ ]

In July, 1949, SF [ ] reported that [ ] who then was believed to be overseas, [ ]

RE: [ ]

This person is possibly identical with [ ] a known acquaintance of the [ ] who has been interviewed and has advised that she knew of no Communist sympathy or activity on the part of the [ ]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>JUL 13 1953</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/1,8,17,18,19,26,29/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>b7C</b>
TITLE <b>[REDACTED]</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>[REDACTED]</b>		<b>jlb</b>
<b>SECRET</b>			ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ **b1**

**[REDACTED]** He also attended meetings of the Independent Progressive Party and Sonoma County Peace Council in April and May, 1953. **[REDACTED]** a friend of the **[REDACTED]** advised that they have never indicated any Communist Party membership. He said the **[REDACTED]** are still in the IPP in Sonoma County. Correspondence of the **[REDACTED]** from January to June, 1953 set out. Bank records of the **[REDACTED]** account do not reflect any transactions other than legitimate business concerns. Department of Motor Vehicles, State of California, reflects two automobiles and one pickup truck registered to the **[REDACTED]**

*See later report*

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0-1 to S. J. 9/25/53 **b7C**  
Advised Bu when rept  
maybe expected - S. J.  
S. J. 9/27/53 - Rept  
subm 9/21/53 - S. J. (ja)

7/18/01  
CLASSIFIED BY **SP1ALM/olj**  
DECLASSIFY ON: **25X**

# 446972

G. I. R. 1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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~~SECRET~~

[ ] have been more or less ostracized by some of the Independent Progressive Party members [ ] Rosa because someone started rumors insinuating that [ ] were informants for the FBI and that their trip to Europe a few years ago had been paid by the FBI. In spite of this, [ ] said [ ] are still members in good standing with the Independent Progressive Party [ ] also advised that [ ] have complained about the treatment given them by the FBI during their trip to Europe several years ago. [ ] advised that [ ] claimed that the FBI surveilled them where ever they went throughout Europe and had their luggage torn apart when [ ] went through customs inspection on their return to the United States. It is noted that at the time of this interview, [ ] advised that he had joined the ~~Independent Progressive Party~~

[ ]

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San Francisco [ ] has furnished the below set out information regarding correspondence received by [ ] had no information in addition to what is set out and had no knowledge of the purposes of this correspondence.

Date	From	Remarks
12/15/52	935 Market Street San Francisco Room 600	[ ] advised this was an announcement and read as follows: "Dr. and Mrs. JOHN ADAMS KINGSBURY invite you to a reception for EDWIN and ISOBEL CERNEY just returned from a months tour of China, Asian-Pacific Peace Conference in Peking. 'Sixty Hours From Peking' first public report on New China--1952 Saturday, December 20 - 7:30 P.M., New Rose Room, 150 Golden Gate Avenue. Refreshments Donation \$1.00".  Building directory at 935 Market Street reflects that Room 600 is occupied by the Northern California Peace Council, which has already been described in this report.

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'14/53

'19/53

'19/53

DOROTHEA LANGE  
1163 Euclid Avenue  
Berkeley, California

~~SECRET~~  
This is the known address  
of the aunt, [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] has reported  
previous correspondence  
to the [redacted]

[redacted] has advised that  
[redacted] received payments of  
\$100 in August, 1949 and  
\$104 in October, 1949 from  
the American Russian  
Institute. [redacted] did not  
know the purpose for these  
payments. The American  
Russian Institute has al-  
ready been described in  
this report.

No record identifiable  
with [redacted] located  
in the files of this office.

[redacted] advised in Decem-  
ber, 1943 that [redacted]  
and his wife were members  
of the North Beach Club  
of the Communist Party in  
San Francisco.

No record identifiable  
with [redacted] was located  
in the indices of the  
San Francisco Office.

When interviewed by the  
FBI February, 1952,  
[redacted] mentioned  
DOROTHEA LANGE TAYLOR as  
one of her few acquaintances.

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONFORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE SEP 21 1953	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/8, 29; 8/10, 26; 9/9, 11, 14/53	REPORT MADE BY [redacted] amc
TITLE [redacted]		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p><u>SECURITY INFORMATION - <del>CONFIDENTIAL</del></u></p> <p>[redacted] furnished no unfavorable information regarding [redacted] the International Book Shop of San Francisco. Correspondence as furnished by [redacted] is set out.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> <p>DECLASSIFIED BY <u>SP2ALM/lej</u> ON <u>7/18/01</u> #446972</p> <p style="text-align: right;">G. I. R. 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SECURITY INFORMATION - <del>CONFIDENTIAL</del></p>			
COPIES DESTROYED			
438 NOV 28 1980 FORWARDED: [redacted]		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE [redacted]		5-160078 + 62	
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20 OCT 15 1953

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home and never indicated to her by conversation or in any other manner that he was acquainted with [redacted] advised that it is her opinion that [redacted] may have been engaged in some Communist type activity during that period, but she has no definite information to this effect and has no information to indicate who [redacted] Communist friends may have been.

It is noted that San Francisco [redacted] of unknown reliability, has advised that [redacted] were members of the Water Front Section of the Communist Party in San Francisco in 1933.

[redacted]

San Francisco [redacted] of known reliability, advised that the [redacted] reflected no unusual activity during June, July, and August, 1953. [redacted] advised

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[redacted]

The California Committee on un-American Activities in its report 1947 cited the International Book Shop, San Francisco as, "the Communist Party book center in the Bay Area for the distribution of its literature."

San Francisco [redacted] of unknown reliability, furnished the below set out information regarding [redacted] correspondence. [redacted] had no information other than what is set out and had no knowledge of any significance of the information furnished.

Approximate Date

To

From

June 15, 1953

[redacted]

[redacted]

July 30, 1953

" "

(It is noted as previously set out that these persons are relatives of [redacted])

SF 65-2427  
SF 65-4387

Approximate Date

To

From

July 16, 1953

[redacted] (As already  
indicated in this report [redacted]  
is an uncle of the subject.)

July 30, 1953

[redacted] (San  
Francisco [redacted] of known reliability,  
advised that [redacted] of the  
above address was a member of the  
Elmhurst Branch of the CP in  
Alameda County, Calif. in 1949.)

August 1, 1953

1163 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, Calif.  
(It is noted that this is the  
residence of Dorothea Lange,  
whom [redacted] mentioned  
as one of the few acquaintances  
when [redacted] was interviewed  
by the FBI in 1942.)

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- 6 -